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THE NEW YORK HERALD was founded by James Gordon Bennett in 1835. It remained the sole property of its founder until his death, in 1872, when his son, also James Gordon Bennett, succeeded to the ownership of the paper, which remained in his hands until his death, in 1918. THE HERALD became the property of Frank A. Munsey, its present owner, in 1920.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1921.

The President's Armament Plan.

In behalf of the United States and through Secretary HUGHES President HARDING yesterday struck dumb the members of the Conference for the Limitation of Armament with a permanent peace proposal neither vague nor theoretical but practical and specific. It was so unexpected, so sudden, so dramatic by sheer force of what it meant to all humanity that it will startle the whole world.

With calm, impressive earnestness Secretary HUGHES told the great Powers in almost so many words that the conference had been called by the Chief Executive of this Government not to become a debating society and to pass resolutions but to take up a plain business proposition and reach action on it. In the most explicit terms he set forth exactly what the United States would do to check bankrupting squander on military machines if the other two great naval Powers, Great Britain and Japan, would do what this country conceived to be their essential part in this programme to keep the world out of receiverships.

It is not necessary here to go into technical discussion of how the United States would fare on Mr. HARDING'S proposed balance of naval power and other military weapons. We may safely assume that American army and navy experts and advisers are satisfied that our scrapping a capital ship total tonnage of 845,000 would leave us relatively, if not adequately, secure as against Great Britain with 583,000 tons scrapped and Japan with 448,000 scrapped.

The thing for us and for the world to realize, acknowledge and acclaim is that for the first time in all the history of propaganda, parleys and appeals on the prevention of war a Government—our own Government of the United States—has offered the Powers for immediate adoption and fulfilment this effective programme based on sound, safe and workable principles.

Our Government has said, "Here is what we will do. What will you do?" Either the other Powers, bending under their war burdens, must also put all their cards on the table, say what they will do and then do it, or the clamor of nations and races for disarmament and other ways and means to make war impossible can come to nothing. If the delegates can refuse to join in such a programme and can go home to face their peoples whose hearts must be thrilling to-day with the message from the United States, what hope is there that the Powers of the Old World ever will set their faces away from militarism for good and all?

This programme of President HARDING, in truth, while definitely and surely showing how to save billions of dollars now destroyed in a welter of armament squander, does not propose, does not suggest, the stripping of any nation of its reasonable defence. It does not mean to expose any people to rash hazards. On the contrary, as Secretary HUGHES told the delegates, while it will make stupendous savings, lighten the crushing load under which the Old World staggers and permit vast treasure now no better than burned up to be employed in the usual economic channels for the advancement of civilization, still "the just interests of all shall be adequately guarded and national security and defence shall be maintained."

This great, this splendid, this world impressive proposal of the United States, in short, is not visionary and footless evangelism; it is practical business.

Striking for Work.

Latin temperament is responsible for the upsetting of many of the ideals of conduct and normal processes of thought of the Anglo-Saxon world. Few such exhibitions of southern feeling, however, can compare for its startling reversal of the ordinary causes of strikes in the northern world with the recent action of the lawyers of the town of Piacenza in Italy, who actually went on a strike for more work.

According to the reports of this incident, novel in the history of strikes, the Piacenza advocates asserted that the Italian Government was systematically reducing the number of judges, with the result in Piacenza that the court dockets became overcrowded and more than 1,000 cases have been postponed until 1922. The embattled lawyers do not ask for shorter hours and more pay, but, on the contrary, for an opportunity to appear in court more often.

Italy has contributed much to the advancement of mankind and of the law, and it has an opportunity to add still one more gem to its legal diadem by granting the striking advocates of Piacenza their plea for more work. This might set a ball rolling that would gather to its surface all people in the world who prefer work to strikes.

Japan's New Premier, Takahashi.

This country has more than the usual interest in the new Japanese Premier, Baron KOREKIYO TAKAHASHI, who succeeds TAKASHI HARA as the head of the Tokio Government. TAKAHASHI was for two years a student of finance at an American institution. He has paid frequent visits to the United States in the interest of Japanese affairs, the most notable of which were those in 1904 and 1906 in connection with financial problems growing out of the Russo-Japanese war. His comment on President ROOSEVELT after the dinner in his honor at the White House is still remembered, "He struck me as a man of great force and I remember of wishing all through the dinner that Japan had a few Roosevelts."

Baron TAKAHASHI has been for many years closely connected with the financial and economic life of Japan, first as an employee and later as Governor of the Bank of Japan. He entered Premier HARA'S Cabinet as Minister of Finance and continued to hold that post until his present elevation to the Premiership. Immediately following HARA'S assassination TAKAHASHI was not seriously mentioned as a likely candidate for the head of the Government. There was a very evident desire to place in this office some representative of the old aristocracy, and at least two members of the Genro received offers of the post.

YAMAGATA refused to accept the Premiership, giving as a reason his age. It is rather doubtful if he would have been acceptable to the younger generation of Japanese politicians. Besides, it was a question if with his avowed militaristic leanings his selection would have been advisable under the present condition. His associate, Marquis SAIONJI, one of the most powerful of the Elder Statesmen, would perhaps have been more acceptable to the Japanese people. He did not share the extreme militaristic views of his aged colleague and he was considered the most liberal of the body actually behind the Japanese throne. He declined, however, to take up the Premiership, declaring that the heavy responsibilities were too much for a man of his advanced age.

This left the field practically open to Baron TAKAHASHI. His selection was undoubtedly a victory for the liberal element; and it is evidently a concession by the Japanese militarists to popular wishes. The new Premier is not so much a representative of the common people as was his predecessor. He belongs to a wealthy Japanese family, but he has been often opposed to the court clique in its attempts at aristocratic rule. One of his theories was that Japan could make more advance in her Far East policies by cultivating the friendship of China than by trying to dominate her. He was a trusted friend and adviser of Premier HARA and there is every reason to believe that the policy of the latter will guide the Japanese delegation at the conference at Washington and so far as possible be followed in the affairs of the nation during the Premiership of Baron TAKAHASHI.

Passing of a Famous Stud.

The recent sale of the horses at the Woodburn Stud of KENNETH D. ALEXANDER in Kentucky marks the passing of one of the most famous of all the thoroughbred nurseries of the South.

Woodburn was noted for the quality of its live stock—cattle and sheep as well as horses—but it was also conspicuous for another Southern characteristic, hospitality, and those of the older generation of the turf will regret the abandonment of the farm where so many generations of the Alexander family reigned like feudal lords.

It was to Woodburn that Lexington was taken after his meetings with the Southern champion Lecomte at New Orleans in 1854, and it was at this historic spot that the blind son of Boston and Alice Carneal built a reputation second to none as a progenitor of sterling race horses.

Lexington's vision was of course perfect when he raced against Lecomte—the latter also a son of Boston. The event in which they met first was the State Post Stakes, which carried an entrance fee of $5,000 each, and Lexington was named for Kentucky, Lecomte for Mississippi, Arrow for Louisiana and Highlander for Alabama. The race was run over the Métairie course, now one of the handsomest cemeteries in the United States, and was at four mile heats. The track was heavy, exactly to the liking of Lexington, and he won in straight heats, the first by a length and the second by three lengths.

A tremendous crowd saw that contest, special steamboats bringing a great many persons from Kentucky and Ohio, while every sugar and cotton planter of the South who could be there was present to cheer for his favorite. The defeat of Lecomte cost the South a pang, but a week later his supporters had their revenge when Lecomte over a fast course lowered the colors of his great rival and placed the four mile record at 7:26, where it remained until Longfellow, with pacemakers for each mile and a running start, reduced it in a special trial to 7:19¾.

Lecomte was taken to England along with Prior and Prioress in 1856 by that daring plunger RICHARD TEN BROECK, but he never had a chance to show his quality to the English, as he died of pneumonia shortly after landing. Lexington went blind at about the same period but lived to a green old age, and the fame of his sons and daughters brought such renown to Woodburn that it was easily the leader of the live stock nurseries of the South.

Only those who attended the annual sales of thoroughbreds at Woodburn or kindred establishments when they were in the heyday of their existence can form any conception of the scene when breeders and fanciers from all parts of the United States and Canada gathered for the occasion. Barbecued sheep, steaming burgoo—a most delicious dish unknown in its perfect state outside of the South—and other comestibles were dispensed by eager servants, their black faces radiating the hospitality of their masters. There were strong liquors too in abundance and the bidding was fast and furious for the choicest lots.

Woodburn had its prototype in Belle Mead, the splendid stud in Tennessee in which RICHARD CROKER was for a time associated with General W. H. JACKSON. Belle Mead is no longer a nursery of thoroughbreds, and while the glory of Woodburn has long passed the news that its paddocks will not hereafter be tenanted by thoroughbreds will be received with regret, for it was the birthplace of some of America's turf immortals.

Revenue Law English.

On page 23, after line 2, of the internal revenue bill taxpayers and others interested, if there be any, will find this limpid stream of English gently flowing on its crystal course in the shape of an amendment adopted by the Senate:

> "(b) In the case of the head of a family or a married person living with husband or wife, the tax imposed by this section shall not exceed the sum of (1) the amount of the tax that such person would pay if his net income for the taxable year were $5,000 and (2) the excess of his net income over $5,000 for such taxable year."

Senator WALSH of Massachusetts with puckered brow asked if this would "make a difference in the revenue of the Government." Senator SMOOT with serene brow replied that he did not think it would amount to much. Senator TOWNSEND observed that "there is too much expert language in the bill." Senator MOSES looked sad at this fling at the Treasury experts and quoted an old Russian adage, "Whose bread I eat, his song I sing." Senator MCCUMBER asked Senator WALSH "kindly to formulate an amendment that will make it simple." Senator WATSON of Indiana preferred Senator HITCHCOCK for this editorial job and asked him to "take the amendment and write it so everybody can understand it."

Senator HITCHCOCK agreed to do this if Senator WATSON would "explain it to me." Senator WATSON declined to explain. Senator HITCHCOCK urged him. "I will give the Senator from Indiana," he said, "a nice large red apple if he can explain it in five minutes."

Neither Senator WATSON nor any other Senator attempted to earn the red apple, so the amendment remains in the bill as quoted above.

Maine's Effort to Save the Deer.

Maine people have been uneasy of late about the great number of deer the hunters have been killing. Their anxiety is justified. Automobiles running over good roads now carry hunters to regions in the past penetrated slowly and under difficulties that to many were prohibitive. Supplementing the automobiles are the motor boats. Inland lakes which had been barriers to quick trips by hunters have become rapid transit thoroughfares. The deer slayers have been swarming over Maine in increasing numbers. This fall more have been in the woods than ever before.

It was in anticipation of this that the Maine Legislature passed the present restrictive laws. One of these established a sex line in deer killing. Under it the hunter may kill just one buck and one doe. If he kills two bucks or two does he is a lawbreaker, subject to penalties. No matter how taut his nerves under the strain of the hunt, no matter how tangled the thicket or how obscuring the surroundings in which he gets the first glimpse of his quarry, he must stop, look and investigate. He must manage to see enough of the deer's head to know for a certainty whether it is a buck or doe upon which he has drawn a bead. Some hunters do not want to do this. They bang away without making sure.

If a hunter who fires without identifying his target brings down a buck and he has already another buck he is subject to punishment. He dares not bring in his game. The only thing he can do is to leave it where it lies, to be devoured by hawks and bobcats. He may thus kill several deer before he gets the two with which he may venture to appear. The deer are killed and nobody gets either skin or venison. Consequently the deer extermination which the Maine legislators intended to avert goes right on just as though the sex restriction law had never been written.

It is a law that has failed to effect its purpose, however excellent in theory. So, even now, there is talk of a repeal and a substitute provision much more drastic. It is suggested that hereafter the hunter be limited to just one deer, irrespective of sex.

Manless Jobs and Jobless Men.

If conditions in Nebraska are similar to those in contiguous agricultural States, then in a large part of the middle West unemployment is to a great extent a myth. For in Nebraska there is next to no involuntary unemployment. It is a case there of manless jobs rather than of jobless men. It is FRANK A. KENNEDY of Lincoln who says so. He ought to know. It is his business to know, for he is the State Secretary of Labor.

Yet a little more than a month ago a Federal Government bulletin placed the number of Nebraska's unemployed at 6,000. Assuming that this estimate was accurate at the time, what has wrought the change for the better? Beet sugar is part of the answer. Beet sugar factories give employment to 2,500 men. They began running about the middle of September. Night and day, Sundays included, they will be in operation for more than three months to come, say until about February 15.

Then there is the corn husking. Nebraska had a prodigious corn crop this year and the husking is now in full swing. For another month it will give work to thousands at fair wages and with board and lodging thrown in. The farmers have been pleading for this kind of help and a good deal of the pleading has been in vain. The unemployed will not come. "They would rather hang around the cities," said Secretary KENNEDY, "and talk about hard times and the rights of the unemployed than to get out into the country where they will have a chance to work and where they will get the best meals they ever had in their lives."

But such as they do not enter into the unemployment problem. They have nothing to do with employment. Plain loafing is their forte. "Men of this sort," remarks Mr. KENNEDY, "are entitled to scant consideration." If by scant consideration he means no consideration at all he will find public opinion solidly with him.

But sugar making and corn husking alone do not account for the absorption of all except Nebraska's voluntarily unemployed. The railroads have been taking on more men. The building industries have been looking up. Practically all the skilled men in the State are at work.

Nebraska and the States adjacent thereto are not the whole country by a good deal. Conditions there and in the highly industrialized States are widely at variance. But, happily, the betterment in employment conditions is not sporadic. It is not localized. It is widespread. In New England, in New York, all the way across the country from coast to coast reports are more and more optimistic. The totals of those involuntarily idle are steadily shrinking. A notable reaction for the better followed the dissipation of the railroad strike cloud. Orders for goods cancelled under that threat have been renewed. The firm attitude of the Government and the spirited posture of the public in the face of the crisis have had a marked effect in stabilizing confidence. Eliminating those who are idle under strike orders and those who are out of work because of strike non-production, the task of unemployment conferences is appreciably lighter than it was a few weeks ago when those conferences began their investigations.

In this strange English language you seek to prevent scraps by scrapping.

A new note seems to have been struck recently by GANDHI, whose anti-British agitation in India has attracted to him many followers. Where once he opposed violence he now appears to contemplate the possibility of forceful measures complacently. His latest advice is to tear down the statue erected in Lahore to Lord LAWRENCE, a distinguished soldier of Sepoy rebellion times, and to do it "even at the risk of imprisonment or death." LAWRENCE'S memorial is a symbol of British rulership, and its removal would be a direct challenge to the authorities.

DR. FRANK L. CHRISTIAN, superintendent of the Elmira State Reformatory, says the frequently expressed opinion that ex-service men have recruited the ranks of criminals is not based on fact. Army life failed to make some bad fellows good, but it did not make all the good ones bad, as certain hysterical persons would have us believe.

Health week begins to-morrow, and a good many perfectly well men and women are likely to worry themselves sick before it ends.

The burglars who tied a man to a seat in a theatre may have given a hint to desperate managers.

The Spirit of the Leaves.

Lemon-gold in the west
Behind the dun hill's crest,
And the sound of a voice that grieves
(Spirit of Fallen Leaves!),
Sobbing—sobbing away
The ashen hours of day.

Will it ever come again
After this poignant pain,
The joy-lilt rising clear—
Youth and the jocund year?
(Hark, how she grieves and grieves,
Spirit of Fallen Leaves!)

Yea, for you know (and I)
Of the divinity
Of a sweep of mild May sky
Over us wide and high,
And a voice that laughs—not grieves—
Spirit of Opening Leaves!

CLINTON SCOLLARD.

Into Silence.

Some day shall the wind
Blow without knowing
Over me
Where tall grass is growing;
I shall be under it
Earth in earth,
Not running,
Not leaping,
Not singing. . . .
Oh, Wind,
How should you guess
As you pass
Unless
The grass whispers,
"Yes, it is she,
Your friend and lover,
We grow above her." . . .

Would you believe?
Ah, no, ah, no;
Laughing, answer,
"It is not so—
She would not lie
So still, so still;
The sun is high—
I go to seek her
Under the sky!"

Light feet over my heart, my head,
And I as silent,
As still in my bed
As the face of a star
In the water!

ABIGAIL W. CRESSON.

Advertising by Churches.

An English Bishop's Opinion Tested in New Jersey.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: In your editorial article on "The Bishop and the Ponies" you quote the Bishop of Birmingham as expressing the opinion that the churches should advertise.

The good Bishop has come to a conclusion that is shared by many people, both clergy and laity. Why should he say that it comes hard to apply advertising to the church when publicity is a fundamental, almost primeval, prerogative of religion?

The law was delivered to Moses on Sinai amid thunder and lightning. The spectacular march across the desert and conquest of Canaan confirmed the power back of that law.

A long line of prophets publicly foretold the Messiah's coming. Herald angels in the dazzling light proclaimed His birth, while the star of Bethlehem brought wise men of the East to His cradle. Peter and Paul were not tyros in the art of publicity.

The church has largely lost the point of contact with the world in general because of the lack of publicity. It no longer dominates because other thoughts are in the minds of men, put there by good advertising methods.

There came to the little town of Mahwah, N. J., in June, 1920, a great preacher, a man known the world over as a leader, the Rev. James M. Farrar. He left his big Brooklyn church, where he had drawn large crowds for twenty-seven years, because approaching blindness made it impossible to assume the charge of so large a church. For nine months that great divine preached to only fair congregations. Then some one said, This man is too good to be preaching to so few people every Sunday; he must have some publicity.

The support of the local papers in two neighboring towns was enlisted. The sermons were written up and published each week in part, as well as little anecdotes regarding Dr. Farrar. In three weeks every seat was taken and in no time the church was crowded. People came ten and twelve miles to hear him. Long lines of automobiles were parked in front of the church every Sunday.

He preached his last sermon in June, 1921, and as he announced his next Sunday's topic the church officials were wondering where they would put the folks that wanted to hear him. But before that Sunday came the good doctor had gone to his reward.

Had he lived he would have built up in the heart of the Ramapo valley a wonderful community church. He gave the religious editor of the Brooklyn *Eagle* credit for his success in Brooklyn and to local press work he attributed the splendid audiences the last three months of his life.

There can be no controversy over it. The successful church to-day is the one well advertised and whose pastor, like the late Dr. Farrar, preaches the Gospel. The Bishop of Birmingham is not far from the truth when he says, "The church should advertise in the manner of large American business houses."

Let us go further and say "Every church should have its press representative." E. P. BEEBE.

NEW YORK, November 12.

Two Ways With Negroes.

The British Plan in Jamaica and the White Plan in the South.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: I read with interest the letter from Mayor Stewart of Savannah, Georgia, in which he says that "we white people in the South know how to handle the negro."

In Jamaica there is absolutely no trouble with the negroes. Because the Britisher is superbly ignorant of any class consciousness, he administers justice, does his work without particularly noticing the blacks. The result is that the black man accepts the white man's superiority easily and naturally.

In our Southern States the whites show their hatred and contempt of the blacks too readily. A mangy dog can brush against a white with impunity but a well dressed negro might be shot for doing the same thing; particularly if he was well dressed.

In the town next to where I lived in the South a young negro was murdered—lynched—because a white woman fell in love with him. There was no evidence that he had ever molested a white woman, but because one confessed to some white men that she loved him he was killed and not a word of criticism or protest from any of the whites was raised.

I do not believe in Northern interference with the negro question, neither do I believe that the white man in the South is nearly so capable of handling the blacks as he thinks he is.

WALTER BALL.

NEW YORK, November 12.

General Sheridan's Grave.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: Is General Sheridan buried in Arlington, and who of the distinguished American soldiers are buried there? Are there any such? GEORGE BINOYNE.

A descendant of General Wayne.

NEW YORK, November 12.

General Sheridan's grave is in Arlington and many other distinguished soldiers are also buried there.

Recording an Arkansas Incident.

Kahoka correspondence Batesville Record.

On Saturday a horse driven to a sled by Hiram Timberlake discovered a yellow jackets' nest and immediately started for the county seat to record its discovery and started so quickly that a leg of Mr. Timberlake came in contact with the sled and was badly injured.

Mysteries of Death Rate Figures

Unexplained Variations Retard the Progress of Man Toward a Century as the Span of Human Life.

By JACQUES W. REDWAY,
Fellow American Meteorological Society.

The system of registering and classifying mortality statistics has become a science fundamental to an understanding of the principles of modern civilization. A most gratifying fact to be observed by comparing these figures is the lowering of the death rate from year to year. In 1880 the death rate in the United States from all causes was 19.8; in 1919 it had dropped to 12.9. Based on a fair average population between these dates, the reduction of seven in a thousand means the saving of millions of lives.

This reduction is due chiefly to the repression of such contagious and infectious diseases as diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles, whooping cough and typhoid fever. Half a century ago these diseases often came as epidemic scourges; nowadays they rarely pass a sporadic stage. The death rate has fluctuated slightly from year to year since 1880, but it has dropped steadily. But one material upward movement has occurred, in the year 1918, when influenza, with the added scourge of pneumonia, caused more than one-third of a million deaths.

During the year 1919 the death toll in the registration area was 1,096,436. The following table covers the eight principal causes of death:

Cause of Death.	Rate to the 100,000. 1919.	1918.
Organic heart diseases	131.0	153.4
Tuberculosis, all forms	125.6	150.2
Influenza	98.8	302.1
Bright's disease	81.6	90.3
Cancer	80.5	80.4
Apoplexy	77.5	79.9
Pneumonia	75.7	216.4
Diarrhœa, under two years	44.2	58.8
Old age	14.3	16.1

Organic diseases of the heart are first on the list for 1919. In theory most of the cases are "old age" diseases; in fact, they now invade middle life. The rate for the United States at large shows a moderate decrease, but in many of the large cities there is a marked increase in the last forty years. Out of every 100 deaths fifty-four decedents lived in cities and forty-six in rural communities.

Tuberculosis carries off yearly almost as many as heart troubles, the middle aged being the chief victims. So far as city and country are concerned there is but little difference in the death rate. Tuberculosis is practically the price we pay for the unsanitary conditions of modern civilization. It is very rare among nomadic peoples in their own environment, but they succumb to it quickly when they are brought in contact with the conditions of modern life. A gratifying feature of the statistics is the constantly lowering death rate. Little by little tuberculosis is being conquered. Bright's disease in 1919 held third place in mortality statistics, exceeding pneumonia during that year. In the last fifteen years the death rate from this disease has steadily increased, that of 1919 being the solitary exception. If Bright's is an old age disease it certainly is invading the years of middle life. Of every hundred deaths fifty-five are urban dwellers.

Apoplexy is usually classed among old age ailments, but its ravages are not confined to the age of 70 years and over; it begins to make itself a record at 40. The death rate rose to a high peak during the world war; it was materially higher in 1919 than the average in 1910. The simple life has been commended as the preventive against apoplexy; but the difference between the rural and the urban death rate is in the ratio of 53 to 47.

Diarrhœa is the chief fatal ailment among young children. It was responsible for about one-fourth the deaths under 2 years of age in 1919. During the last fifteen years the death rate from this cause has been reduced a little more than one-half, from 96 to 44 to the 100,000. Contaminated foods are the chief cause; the education of mothers is the principal remedy.

Cancer is giving medical science greater concern than any other ailment, and medical science is still uncertain as to the ultimate cause or causes. In two decades the death rate has increased 27.8 per cent. It is a disease of modern civilization and is almost unknown among Oriental peoples. There is an opinion growing into the minds of many pathologists that cancer is a result of disordered nutrition—that somewhere or other normal nutrition has slipped a cog. The prevalence of cancer among white people in preference to negroes is marked, even in States having a large proportionate colored population. In general the rate is higher in the Northern than in the Southern States—almost in proportion to latitude; yet there are notable exceptions. In Montana the rate is less than one-half that of Maine; that of South Carolina is less than one-third that of California. Among cities having a low rate, Birmingham, Ala., pairs with Detroit, and in cities having a high rate Los Angeles pairs with Boston.

In some States the rate is greater in urban communities; in others it is greater in rural districts. It is possible that the disease is a distinction between the overfed and the underfed, or yet the improperly fed; but the proof is wanting. There may be a relation between cancer and temperature, or between cancer and soil, but the relation has not been established.

In its pandemic visitations influenza is the most deadly disease of modern times. These occur roughly at intervals of thirty years, but between times it breaks out here and there in mild epidemic form. As a pandemic it burns itself out in two or three years. In normal years the death toll is almost negligible; in pandemic years it has been close to a quarter of a million. Perhaps less is known about the origin of influenza than of any other contagious disease. That it is communicated by personal contact is certain, but virulent outbreaks at times have occurred almost simultaneously in isolated localities far removed from centres of population and lines of travel. Thus, in 1889, it appeared almost at the same time in Bokhara in Asia, Athabasca in western Canada and Greenland. Epidemiologists strongly suspect central Asia to be the locus of influenza. A hopeful aspect of the case is the large and increasing percentage of recovery, due to better methods of treatment.

Pneumonia, like tuberculosis, is always with us. Excepting the years when it is a complication of pandemic influenza the death rate has steadily decreased. It is low in localities having a mild climate. A remarkable exception is Minnesota, where the rate is the lowest in the United States. The rate is materially higher in urban than in rural communities, but Los Angeles and St. Paul are exceptions; their rate is very low.

Death from old age is the ideal end of life. Nevertheless, in more than a million of deaths only a beggarly number were cases in which the human machine went to pieces

> All at once and nothing first—
> Just as bubbles, when they burst.

Here the difference between rural and urban life is apparent. It is certain that the migration of younger men and women to city occupations accounts for the greater number of deaths from old age, but taking all factors into consideration more people live to a ripe old age in rural than in urban communities.

It is a travesty on modern civilization that the death rate from old age is almost a negligible figure.

The excessive winter death rate over that of summer is a matter of grave concern. From December to May inclusive the deaths in 1919 were about 40 per cent. greater than in the following seven months. The January death toll for the greater part is twice and in many instances three times as great as that of any summer or early fall month. The proportion is carried out in almost the full list of fatal ailments.

Reasons for the high summer death rate of enteric ailments are apparent, but the cause or causes of the high winter rate are not yet explained. The low temperature of the winter months is naturally to be suspected, but the January death rate of St. Paul and Minneapolis is materially lower than that of Los Angeles and other cities further south. Indeed, latitude does not seem to be an apparent factor. If cold weather is a factor at all, it certainly is not the only factor.

Is it a question of properly balanced food and good living? A study of mortality statistics does not bear out such a hypothesis, excepting in cases in which privation is extreme. In New York city the winter rate in the densely crowded sections of the city is not greater as a rule than in the localities where physical comfort is purchasable, or in the suburbs, where private residences and well to do people abound.

In the Southern States the January death toll is not greater among negroes than among white people; in several instances, notably in New Orleans, it is lower. In Portland, Ore., the ratio of the January to August deaths in 1919 was but little more than half that of Seattle. On the other hand, in the cities and villages along the lake shore district of central New York, where the winters are severe, the difference in the winter and the midsummer death rate is very small. Perhaps an explanation may be found in the fact that this region is snow covered and therefore is protected from flying dust, but this hypothesis has not been established as a fact.

Medical science is pretty generally of the opinion that the disproportion of winter to summer deaths is due to climatic causes and the opinion is probably correct. But there are many factors involved in climate in addition to conditions of temperature and moisture. A short season of abnormally high temperature or low humidity or of stagnant air is apt to be followed by a very marked rise in the death rate, and it is not impossible that the dry, still and dusty air of dwellings in the winter season may contribute materially to the high winter rate.

The fight for a longer life is being carried on. The human animal is built for a round century of years. The work of physicians, hygienists and epidemiologists in the past has wrought wonders; they are now taking the meteorologist into their pact and each side is the possessor of knowledge which is needed by the other. The city of Seattle has reduced its death rate to 8.5 to the thousand, and a reason for a higher rate in the United States in the near future will not exist.

British Tax Refunds.

Rights of Certain Persons Living Outside the United Kingdom.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: Although as the result of my previous letters many persons have been informed as to the claims for repayment of British income tax they were entitled to make I find that there are still many others who are ignorant of the fact that they can reclaim a considerable sum. For their benefit may I point out again that:

1. Every British subject resident out of the United Kingdom is entitled to recover a proportion if not all of the British tax paid since April 5, 1920.

2. Every person who has served the Crown or a protectorate of the Crown, or a missionary society, or is forced to reside abroad for the sake of his health or that of any member of his family, can claim a refund as above since April 5, 1918.

3. Every person, British subject or otherwise, in receipt of British war loan interest or dividends from non-British funds and companies, for example, India stock, Canadian Pacific Railway, Rand Water Board, can recover every penny of tax deducted since April 5, 1918, even where the securities stand in the name of trustees.

4. Where British and colonial income tax is paid in respect of the same source of income a refund can be obtained.

WILFRED T. FRY.

LONDON, England, October 24.

Letter Carriers and Walking.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: Your commendation of walking as an exercise makes me interested to know if there are data regarding mail carriers. They get an abundance of fresh air and walking. Do statistics show they are healthier or longer lived that those who are compelled to live indoors?

AMSTERDAM, November 12. CURIOUS.

Viewed From the Side Lines.

From the Galveston News.

Probably the worst thing about a wedding march is that the groom marries the drill master.

The Straight Road.

From the Kansas City Star.

There are roads that pass through splendor.
And ways that seem sublime.
There are paths that lead o'er vale and mead,
Old roads since man knew time.
Yet since the first man travelled
With his laughter or his care,
The straight road was the great road;
It's the shortest distance there.
We yearn ofttimes for new roads,
For a short cut o'er the way,
And sometimes weep when paths are steep—
Our path of life to-day.
Yet since the first man travelled,
Success was near, somewhere.
And the straight life was the great life,
It's the shortest distance there.

ROBIN A. WALKER.

Advice to Astronomers.

Let Them Forget Attraction and Recognize the Universal Kick.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: The mathematical astronomer will always make a sorry failure at technical figuring unless he recognizes the real force, heat or repulsion, instead of an imaginary attraction, as the force of gravitation and the only physical force in the universe.

In other words he will always find the moon and other orbs a little ahead of time or a little behind time unless he recognizes the fact that as the moon moves in its circuit around the earth the repulsion of the orbs along its path retards its movement or accelerates its movement according to the locations of those orbs at the time.

There is an old saying, "Never trouble trouble till trouble troubles you." The astronomer can now get out of his trouble by forgetting that there is such a thing as attraction of gravitation.

If you drop a rock to the earth the earth instantly repels it upward. Every atom or invisibly small system of matter, every satellite, planet, sun or star as it falls to a perihelion is repelled away from its perihelion.

Everything in the universe has a kick to it. If you fail to recognize this principle you will never know what put you exactly where you are.

D. A. N. GROVER.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., November 10.

Relativity Bars Creation.

Einstein Theory Leaves the Universe Without a Beginning.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: Although Professor Einstein has said nothing directly on the subject, the theory of relativity leads to conclusions apparently incompatible with the idea of an original creation of the world. On the other hand, the relativity theory, distinctly excluding as it does the idea of creative activity, clears the way for man himself to attain divine attributes. The relativity of divinity itself may thus become manifest in the practical realization of man's own lofty aspirations.

For according to the theory of relativity we may say with a moderate degree of certainty that the universe of matter and space is finite and yet unbounded. Such a universe is absolutely closed and so excludes the idea of an external cause. An internal cause, inasmuch as it could not be distinguished from its effect, is out of the question. Nor could the universe have sprung from nothing, hence it was uncaused.

Again, if the universe was caused it must have had a beginning in time and space. Now time and space are not independent, but are determined, the one by motion, the latter by matter, both being part and parcel of the universe. Time, therefore, should have to be something other than the single track continuum of our imagination, and space something different from a three dimensional abstraction in order that they might serve as a negative ground and pathway along which the universe might move.

Time and space, in other words, are within, not without, the universe which, therefore, could not have begun in them. It follows from what has been said that as the universe had no beginning it needed no one to begin it, and hence the idea that it was created is superfluous.

HENRY L. PHILLIPS.

FALLS VILLAGE, Conn., November 12.

How to Fight Blackmailers.

Tell Them to Do Their Worst and Then Inform the Police.

G. T. Crook in London Daily Mail.

There are scores of men and women in London, particularly in the West End, who get their living by levying blackmail, which means demanding money with menaces. These scoundrels, the basest and most dangerous of all criminals, doubtless smiled sardonically when they read of the light sentences passed on the blackmailers convicted at the Central Criminal Court.

Blackmail is a crime which flourishes on its own vile strength and the weakness of its victims. For some time past it has been on the increase, and the police, although they are well aware of this fact, are powerless to move because as a rule the sufferers will not take action.

Influential and wealthy people, both men and women, are deliberately decoyed by these loathsome pests of society and are wickedly led into situations the revelation of which would possibly ruin them and their families.

Having obtained this cruel lever the blackmailers proceed to demand large sums of money as the price of their silence, and in nineteen cases out of twenty the victims, imagining that this is the only way of saving their honor and their good name, write out a check, only to find that the demands are repeated until the funds are exhausted.

Poignant mental torture, the constant fear of exposure, the payment of heavy sums of money, and finally financial ruin—these are the punishments meted out to the blackmailers' victims.

And yet there is no reason at all why the blackmailer should succeed in his villainy. Any person who is blackmailed should inform the police immediately and they will at once take action to bring the criminals to justice.

Furthermore, in the majority of cases there would be no need at all for the purpose of the prosecution to go into the circumstances which led to blackmail being levied.

The majority of these blackmailers are convicted rogues and well known to the Criminal Investigation Department. They would not be able to exist for a day if only their intended victims had the moral courage to confide in the police.

Two of the most notorious of blackmailers in London are a man who poses as an army officer and a woman who passes as his wife. They occupy two luxuriously furnished flats communicating by means of a secret door.

One can easily understand how innocent men and women can be lured into this trap and unwittingly dragged down to the depths of despair. I know of one woman who was invited to this flat and to her absolute amazement found herself in a cleverly worked criminal net. She was made to sign a check for £5,000 before she was allowed to leave.

Beat the blackmailer and save exposure by telling him to do his worst, and then inform the police.

Texas Gold.

From the Galveston News.

The output of gold in Texas for 1920 was five ounces, valued at $500, according to a statement of the Geological Survey. That amount was recovered from other ores. There is no gold mining in the State. The silver output for the State was 522,818 ounces, valued at about $1.10 an ounce.